



golden shiner

Notemigonus crysoleucas

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Cypriniformes
Family:	Cyprinidae

Features

The golden shiner may reach four inches long. It is a large minnow that is flattened side to side. The lateral line (sensory organ on the side of the fish) is curved downward. The body is dark green above with olive sides, brassy belly, and a distinctive golden sheen. Young golden shiners are silvery and not as laterally compressed as adults.

Natural History

The golden shiner prefers quiet waters such as pools, sloughs, and protected areas in rivers and lakes. It tolerates muddy water, but prefers relatively clear areas with aquatic plants. Adult shiners eat a variety of plants and animals, but young fish eat primarily plankton (microscopic life forms). It spawns May through July, scattering eggs that stick to aquatic plants or algae. Females release up to 4,000 eggs. Golden shiners are important food for larger fish species.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams; Mississippi River; Missouri River; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

eastern three-fourths of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.